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NSC BRIEFING

18 November 1955

SOME POINTS MADE BY JUSTICE DOUGLAS

- I. Justice Douglas deeply concerned about impact USSR having and may have on people from under-developed countries.
  - A. He said: "Given ten years of peace, Asia will be lost to the USSR."
  - B. Visits to the USSR by Asians and Near East peoples having great effect on these visitors.
  - C. Douglas concerned Soviet actions these areas and by USSR's pushing its Point Four program hard.
  - D. He feels that Soviet industrial plant, at least in public mind, has been under-estimated.
  - E. In ten years, he thinks, Soviet industrial power might even overshadow that of Europe.
  - F. He said: "All our ideas of cost accounting go by the boards in that (Communist) system."
- II. Douglas travelled widely August and September in Siberia and Soviet Central Asia.
  - A. Denied travel to Leninabad (Tadzhik SSR).
    1. Told by Soviet personnel uranium discovered and being developed in Fergana Valley. Leninabad stands at mouth this valley.
  - B. Denied travel to Karaganda.
    1. According Soviet announcement 15 October, steel mill being built Karaganda will have ingot capacity 1.5 times that of Magnitogorsk, currently largest Soviet producer.

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DOCUMENT NO. 47  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
CLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 22 Jan 56  
REVIEWED: [ ]

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2. On basis these figures, new plant will produce 6,750,000 metric tons of steel a year,—300,000 more than Gary Works of U.S. Steel, now world's largest plant.

3. First blast furnace to operate in 1958; full plant production in 1965.

C. Douglas believed his journey supervised quite closely by MVD.

III. Justice's party traveled extensively in "new lands" especially around Barnaul. He called area "booming frontier."

A. Soviet officials said that with a yield of only 5 bushels per acre, this program would pay off.

B. Douglas noted talk about "dust bowl" problems and that soil in area presents chemical problem.

1. Irrigation being worked on.

C. Large volume of rail traffic, particularly of farm machinery.

D. Douglas said: "Russia is crawling with agricultural scientists." He was told by Benediktov, Minister of State Farms, that 235,000 graduates of five-year agricultural colleges were available.

1. Described by Douglas as evangelical.

IV. Douglas looked into nationalities problem in Soviet Central Asia.

A. Said that in Republic capitals, about half population is Russian.

B. Russians get 130 percent more wages than natives; they get the apartments; inter-marriage is rare.

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- C. Schools are segregated. All universities and higher educational institutions run in Russian with a stiff entrance examination.

V. Conversations with Soviet citizens revealed little.

- A. Big complaint was shortage of consumer goods.
- B. Contacts asked question about life in the US, and seemed to have grandiose notions about power of Communist Party in USA.

VI. Miscellaneous observations.

- A. Douglas saw many soldiers engaged in civilian construction work, such as apartment buildings.
- B. His plane put down at Semipalatinsk for one hour or so around end of August. Numerous jet medium bombers seen at airfield. No unusual air sightings before or after Semipalatinsk.  
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- C. Many Chinese seen at Omsk. Train loads of Chinese going west seen at Petropavlovsk. At Bolshoi theater on night Douglas attended, three-fourths audience Chinese.
- D. Douglas said: "There is no rationing in Soviet Central Asia."